

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the *title* at page 1, line 2 with the following revised title:

~~AIR-CONDITIONER MONITOR~~ MONITORING AND CONTROL
SYSTEM FOR AIR CONDITIONER

Please add the following *new* paragraph on page 1, between lines 2 and 3:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This U.S. National stage application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) to Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-047420, filed in Japan on February 24, 2004, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 7 with the following rewritten version:

In recent years, an open protocol has been used for communication between an air conditioner and an air conditioning monitoring and control device in building monitoring systems (for example, see ~~patent document 1~~ Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-156143). If this type of open protocol will be used more extensively in the future, even when air conditioners manufactured by several manufacturers are installed in the same building, it will be possible to operate these air conditioners as one system, which consequently increases user convenience.

Please remove the paragraph at page 1, line 13 as follows:

~~— <Patent Document 1> JP A Publication No. 2002-156143~~

Please replace the heading at page 1, line 14, with the following rewritten version:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION ~~DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION~~

Please remove the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 15 as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF THE REFERENCE SYMBOLS

- 11 ~~manufacturer private protocol monitoring PC (first monitoring panel)~~
- 12 ~~open protocol monitoring PC (second monitoring panel)~~
- 21 ~~manufacturer private protocol air conditioning controller (first air~~
~~conditioning monitoring and control device)~~
- 22d ~~protocol conversion unit (protocol conversion means)~~
- 22 ~~open protocol air conditioning controller (second air conditioning~~
~~monitoring and control device)~~
- 30a, 30b ~~indoor unit (air conditioner)~~
- 31 ~~outdoor unit (air conditioner)~~
- 53 ~~first communication line~~
- 100 ~~air conditioning monitoring and control system~~

Please replace the heading at page 6, line 27, with the following rewritten version:

BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE
INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 24 with the following rewritten version:

The manufacturer-private protocol air conditioning controller 21 has a function of monitoring the conditions of the indoor units 30a, 30b ... and the outdoor unit 31 and ambient conditions (temperature, humidity, air cleanliness, etc.) and also has a function of controlling the indoor units 30a, 30b ... and the outdoor unit 31. As shown in Figure 4(a), this

manufacturer-private protocol air conditioning controller 21 mainly comprises a control unit 21a, a memory unit 21c, and a communication unit 21b. The memory unit 21c stores a monitoring and control program that controls the following functions: a status monitoring function (constituting a status monitoring section), a function of monitoring prohibition/permission setting of operation by remote controller (constituting a setting monitoring section), a function of monitoring start-up/shutdown failure (constituting a start-up/shutdown failure monitoring section), a function of monitoring continuous operation period (constituting a continuous operation period monitoring section), a function of monitoring conflicting status and warning (constituting a conflicting status and warning monitoring section), a function of monitoring upper and lower measurement limits (constituting a upper and lower measurement limits monitoring section), a function of starting up/shutting down and changing set values for each device individually(constituting a starting up/shutting down and changing set values section), a function of prohibiting/permitting operation by remote controller (constituting a prohibiting/permitting operation section), a function of registering device for maintenance (constituting a maintenance section), a schedule control function (constituting a schedule control section), a function of gang control (constituting a gang control section), a function of handling power failure and restoration (constituting a power failure and restoration control section), a forcible shutdown function (constituting a forcible shutdown section), a function of prohibiting integrated operation from low-order device (constituting a prohibiting integrated operation section), an energy saving control function (constituting an energy saving control section), a demand control function (constituting a demand control section), a function of counting total operation hours (constituting a total operation hours counting section), a function of counting total number of start-up/shutdown events (constituting a total start-up/shutdown events section), a function of preparing daily, monthly, annual reports (constituting a reports section), a trend report function (constituting a trend report section), a function of calculating energy consumption cost based on power allocation (constituting a calculating section), a NSC AIRNET function (constituting a NSC AIRNET section), and a function of predicting local malfunction (constituting a predicting local malfunction section) (see Figures 2 and 3). Note that among these functions, the following functions are functions that are unique to the manufacturer-

private protocol air conditioning controller 21: the function of monitoring continuous operation period, the function of monitoring conflicting status and warning, the energy saving control function, the demand control function, the function of preparing daily, monthly, annual reports, and the function of predicting local malfunction. The memory unit 21c also stores monitoring data and the like which are transmitted from the indoor units 30a, 30b ... and the outdoor unit 31. The control unit 21a executes the monitoring and control program mentioned above, and enables these various functions with respect to the indoor units 30a, 30b ... and the outdoor unit 31. The communication unit 21b is compliant with a manufacturer-private protocol.

Please add the following new heading at page 19, line 2:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: